

NOTES ON GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

Reptilia, Serpentes, Dipsadidae, *Phalotris lativittatus*: Distribution extension and geographic distribution map

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Phalotris lativittatus Ferrarezzi, 1994 is a fossorial elapomorphine snake belonging to the *Phalotris nasutus* group (Ferrarezzi 1994; Lema 2002). It is characterized by a wide lateral dark stripe, containing three or more longitudinal dorsal scale rows, unmarked ventral surface, and evident clear and dark coloration of the nape (Ferrarezzi 1994). According to Ferrarezzi (1994), Colli et al. (2002), and Sawaya et al. (2008), *P. lativittatus* is endemic to the Cerrado biome, found in the Cerrado in state of São Paulo (southeastern Brazil), inhabiting areas from 700 to 1000 m above sea level (rarely found at lower altitudes). One record from the northern region of state of Santa Catarina (Ferrarezzi 1994), in southern Brazil, is also available but it needs confirmation.

In this study, we register two individuals of *Phalotris lativittatus* (Figure 1A) from *Parque Estadual do Morro do Diabo* (PEMD), municipality of Teodoro Sampaio, state of São

Paulo, southeastern Brazil, collected during field samplings in February and May 2006. Both specimens, a male (MZUSP 15295) and a female (MZUSP 15296), were deposited at *Museu de Zoologia of Universidade de São Paulo*. Ventral and subcaudal scale counts of the male (198 and 30 scales, respectively) agree with the description given by Ferrarezzi (1994) (ventral scales: 182-199, mean = 187.7; subcaudal scales: 32-39, mean = 35.5), as well as the temporal formulae of both male and female specimens (0+1). Ventral scale counts of the female (205 scales) also agree with description of Ferrarezzi (1994) (196-208 scales, mean = 201.1), but subcaudal counts (51 scales) are higher than the values in his study (23-33 scales, mean = 27.2). The specimens were captured by pitfall traps with drift fences (30 units of 100 L buckets and 330 m of drift fences) installed in a natural patch of cerrado *sensu stricto* physiognomy in PEMD (22°28'07.3" S, 52°20'33.1" W; Figure 1B).



Figure 1. (A) *Phalotris lativittatus* from *Parque Estadual do Morro do Diabo* (PEMD), municipality of Teodoro Sampaio, São Paulo, Brazil. Photo: T. S. Vasconcelos. (B) Line of pitfall trap with drift fences at cerrado *sensu stricto*, *Parque Estadual do Morro do Diabo* (PEMD). Photo: T. G. dos Santos.

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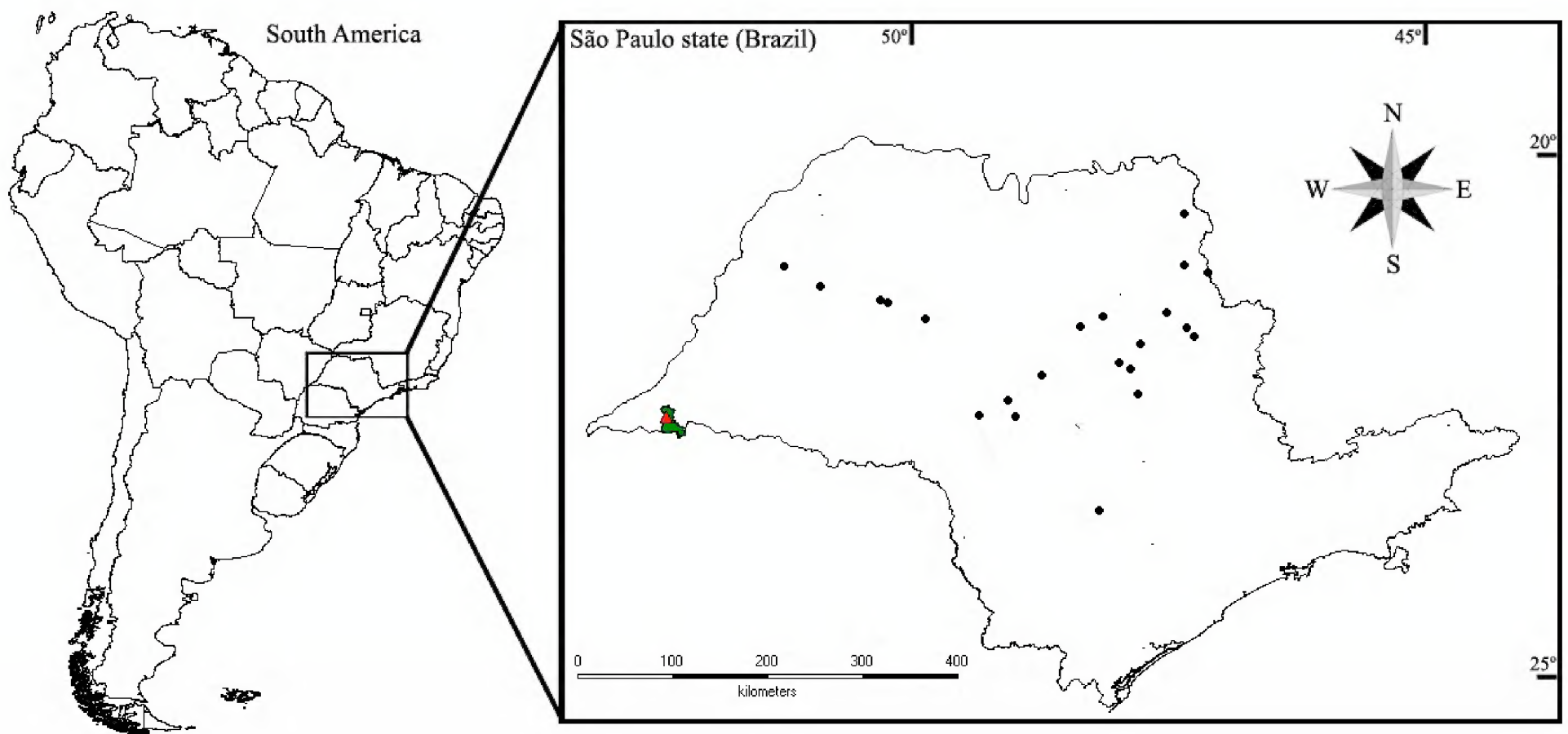


Figure 2. Geographic distribution of *Phalotris lativittatus*. Black circles represent the distribution according to Ferrarezzi (1994) and Sawaya et al. (2008); red triangle represents the occurrence at *Parque Estadual do Morro do Diabo* (green area), municipality of Teodoro Sampaio, São Paulo, Brazil.

Our record extends the previous known geographical distribution of *Phalotris lativittatus* to the extreme western region of state of São Paulo (Figure 2), approximately 200 km southwestern from the nearest known occurrence. The altitude where *P. lativittatus* was recorded in PEMD is 325 m, which is unusually low compared to other records for the species, as stated by Ferrarezzi (1994).

Vegetation of PEMD is characterized by the predominance of mesophytic semideciduous forest and a small patch of Cerrado (Faria and Pires 2006), where there were installed 180 pitfall traps (1,980 m of drift fences) in various physiognomies (Cerrado, climax, initial and advanced regeneration forests, and Myrtaceae forest sensu Durigan & Franco, 2006), which

accounted for 12,960 bucket-days of sampling between October 2005 and September 2006. However, the record of *Phalotris lativittatus* occurred only in the small patch of the Cerrado inside this conservation unit, what reinforces that it is an endemic snake species from the Cerrado biome. The Cerrado vegetation in state of São Paulo has been continuously reduced and threatened by invasive grass species, cattle, deforestation, and fire (Durigan et al. 2007). Only one previous record of *P. lativittatus* inside a conservation unit (*Estação Ecológica de Itirapina*; Sawaya et al. 2008) is available apart from our record. Thus, we suggest more surveys in conservation units throughout the Cerrado biome in order to get more data on the distribution of this poorly known endemic Cerrado snake.

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NOTES ON GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

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